

POLICY ISSUES

Transportation and Infrastructure

- **Meeting growing demand for moving people and freight** - Florida has been among the fastest growing states in the nation. Demand for moving people and goods using all transportation modes expanded rapidly. After several years of lower growth rates, Florida's population growth is expected to resume as the economy recovers, further increasing mobility demands.
- **Linking Florida's economic regions** - The focal point of economic competitiveness is shifting from individual counties and cities to broader regions. Urbanized areas are crossing county lines, and in some cases have been merged into a single, multi-county urbanized area. Supply chains, distribution networks, and other business relationships are linking once separate regions together into integrated economic networks.
- **Enhancing Florida's economic competitiveness** - The state transportation system is intended to support Florida's economic competitiveness by connecting its regions to markets nationwide and worldwide. Florida's diverse industry base – from agriculture to services to high technology – requires all modes of transportation, linked together to access key markets across the nation and world.
- **Widening and modernization of the Panama Canal** - U.S. Ports on the entire U.S. coastline are considering how to best position themselves to participate in an expected economic boom in maritime transit of cargo after the Panama Canal is improved. Other states are making plans to finance major port improvements to attract the increased international shipping activities and to handle the larger tankers and cargo ships that will be traversing the Panama Canal.
- **Making strategic choices given limited resources** - Transportation funding from all sources – federal, state, local, and private – will not pay for all needed improvements. The need to make strategic choices about which projects get priority funding is greater than ever.

POLICY ISSUES (continued)

Community Planning

- **Flexible Planning Tools** - Community planning and growth management are constantly evolving to provide a balanced and flexible system that allows communities to meet their unique needs while also allowing them to attract economic opportunities that are needed for successful and sustained growth.
- **Amendment 4** – In November, Florida's voters will decide how local comprehensive plans will be amended in the future. Amendment 4 gives voters the final say over any change to a local comprehensive plan.

RECENT LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

- **Transportation Funding** – Legislative proposals have passed which provide for a carefully balanced use of gas tax/motor vehicle revenues, bond financing, tolling, and public-private partnerships to finance transportation projects.
- **Seaport Development** – The Legislature authorized the issuance of conceptual environmental permits to individual seaports; once a port obtains a port conceptual permit, it may receive state approval for specific projects on an expedited basis if the project is consistent with the conceptual permit. Seaports were also given more flexibility in funding of projects supporting freight and cruise activities in the 5-Year Transportation Work Program.
- **Growth Management** – The Community Renewal Act of 2009 was designed to remove stumbling blocks to economic recovery. The Act removed restrictions on development in urban areas by removing the state requirement for transportation concurrency. It also recognized the slowdown in construction activity by extending permits so that activity could resume without delay for those that had already made investments but had to delay activity due to the economic downturn. Permit extensions were addressed again in 2010 by the Legislature.

Florida House of Representatives

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION



Fall 2010

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TRANSPORTATION

Transportation and Infrastructure

Florida's transportation infrastructure can be divided into two major categories:

1. **Highway Infrastructure** – Building, operating, maintaining, and repairing the state's system of public roads; the Florida Department of Transportation is responsible for state highways and local governments are responsible for county roads and city streets.
2. **Public Transportation** – State programs related to public transportation modes such as aviation, rail, seaports, and bus transit; these modes are primarily operated and maintained by local governments and the private sector with state and federal assistance.

Infrastructure

MODE	COUNT
Roadways	121,387 Centerline Miles
Railroads	2,796 Track Miles
Public Use Airports -Commercial Service	128 Airports 21 Airports
Deepwater Ports	14 Seaports
Fixed Route Transit Operators	28 Transit Systems

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

A dynamic growing state must plan for the impacts of growth and development. There are significant challenges in providing adequate roads, schools, water, parks and sewer facilities for residents. The state must strive to maintain Florida as a desirable and affordable place to live, work and play.

GENERAL FACTS

- Florida's population expanded from 3 million in 1950 to nearly 19 million in 2009.
- Annual vehicle miles traveled in Florida increased from 110 billion in 1990 to 196 billion in 2009.
- The state had \$130 billion in global merchandise trade and 83 million out-of-state visitors in 2008; the majority of trips involved more than one transportation mode.
- There was \$103 billion in international trade in Florida for 2009, \$43.1 billion were imports and \$59.9 billion were exports; Florida has a history of a more balanced import-export ratio than the national level.
- Annual cruise passengers at Florida's seaports totaled nearly 13 million in 2009.
- Florida airports had nearly 64 million enplanements in 2009. About half of all visitors to the state arrive by air.
- Florida's transportation budget in fiscal year 2010-2011 is \$6.9 billion; \$33.3 billion over the life of the five-year work program.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Community Planning

The State oversees and assists Florida's communities as they plan for the impacts of growth and development. As Florida's population continues to grow, local communities face significant challenges. They must provide adequate roads, schools, water, parks and sewer facilities for their residents, while striving to retain the character that made them desirable places to live in the first place. Structured planning also helps make sure Floridians remain safe before, during and after emergencies. Florida's comprehensive planning process provides a framework for local governments to plan for a successful future that can be sustained over time.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

The State of Florida fosters community development by providing funding to local communities to help improve housing, streets, utilities, parks and recreation, public libraries, and cultural and historical resources. The State assists with efforts to revitalize underserved communities and encourage economic development for the common good. It also helps ensure that buildings throughout Florida are constructed to uniform standards, by providing technical assistance and training in the Florida Building Code for the benefit of local governments and the construction industry.